Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2, 9, 16-20, and 23.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended)   The method as recited in Claim 2<u>1</u> wherein said selecting said next task from said tasks includes:

selecting higher priority values before selecting lower priority values when possible.

4. (Currently Amended)   The method as recited in Claim 2<u>1</u> wherein said selecting said next task from said tasks includes:

if a first particular task cannot be executed until a second particular task has completed execution, enabling selection of said first particular task after said second particular task has completed execution.

5. (Currently Amended)   The method as recited in Claim 2<u>1</u> further comprising:

setting a timer based on said waiting period.

6. (Previously Presented)   The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said tasks are BIOS (Basic Input Output System) initialization tasks.

7. (Previously Presented)   The method as recited in Claim 6 wherein a BIOS kernel receives said request for said particular waiting period.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9 22 wherein said selecting said next task from said tasks includes:

selecting higher priority values before selecting lower priority values when possible.

11. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9 22 wherein said selecting said next task from said tasks includes:

if a first particular task cannot be executed until a second particular task has completed execution, enabling selection of said first particular task after said second particular task has completed execution.

12. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9 22 further comprising:

setting a timer based on said waiting period.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22 wherein said tasks are BIOS (Basic Input Output System) initialization tasks.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13 wherein a BIOS kernel receives said request for said particular waiting period.

15-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended)   A method of executing a plurality of tasks of different priority values, said method comprising:

utilizing preemptive multitasking and cooperative multitasking in execution of said tasks, wherein each task has a different priority value;

before starting any of said tasks, selecting and starting execution of a first task of said tasks, wherein said first task has highest priority value and is not dependent on completion of any other of said tasks;

while said first task is executing, receiving a request for a particular waiting period from said first task;

for duration of said particular waiting period, suspending execution of said first task; and

selecting a next task to execute, ~~wherein said preemptive multitasking and said cooperative multitasking increase utilization of processing power of a processor and ensure higher priority valued tasks are executed with less~~

~~interruption time than lower priority valued tasks~~ wherein said selecting said next task comprises:

selecting said next task from said tasks based on said priority values of said tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of said tasks, wherein said status designations include executing, waiting, interrupted, completed, and unstarted;

starting said selected task and changing status designation of said selected task to an executing task;

if said executing task requests a waiting period, suspending said executing task and changing status designation of said executing task to a waiting task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task has a higher priority value than said waiting task, changing status designation of said waiting task to an interrupted task while allowing said executing task to continue execution;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task does not have a higher priority value than said waiting task, suspending said executing task and changing status designation of said executing task to an interrupted task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task; and

if said executing task completes execution, changing status designation of said executing task to a completed task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task.

22. (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of executing a plurality of tasks of different priority values, said method comprising:

utilizing preemptive multitasking and cooperative multitasking in execution of said tasks, wherein each task has a different priority value;

before starting any of said tasks, selecting and starting execution of a first task of said tasks, wherein said first task has highest priority value and is not dependent on completion of any other of said tasks;

while said first task is executing, receiving a request for a particular waiting period from said first task;

for duration of said particular waiting period, suspending execution of said first task; and

selecting a next task to execute, ~~wherein said preemptive multitasking and said cooperative multitasking increase utilization of processing power of a processor and ensure higher priority valued tasks are executed with less interruption time than lower priority valued tasks~~ wherein said selecting said next task comprises:

selecting said next task from said tasks based on said priority values of said tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of said tasks, wherein said status designations include executing, waiting, interrupted, completed, and unstarted;

starting said selected task and changing status designation of said selected task to an executing task;

if said executing task requests a waiting period, suspending said executing task and changing status designation of said executing task to a waiting task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task has a higher priority value than said waiting task, changing status designation of said waiting task to an interrupted task while allowing said executing task to continue execution;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task does not have a higher priority value than said waiting task, suspending said executing task and changing status designation of said executing task to an interrupted task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task; and

if said executing task completes execution, changing status designation of said executing task to a completed task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task.

23. (Canceled)

24. (New)   A method comprising:

utilizing preemptive multitasking and cooperative multitasking in execution of a plurality of tasks of different priority values, wherein each task has a different priority value;

selecting a next task to execute from said tasks based on said priority values of said tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of said tasks, wherein said status designations include executing, waiting, interrupted, completed, and unstarted;

starting said selected task and changing status designation of said selected task to an executing task;

if said executing task requests a waiting period, suspending said executing task and changing status designation of said executing task to a waiting task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task;

if a waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task has a higher priority value than said waiting task, changing status designation of said waiting task to an interrupted task while allowing said executing task to continue execution;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task does not have a higher priority value than said waiting task, suspending said executing task and changing status designation of said executing task to an interrupted task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task; and

if said executing task completes execution, changing status designation of said executing task to a completed task and repeating said selecting said next task and said starting said selected task.

25. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 24 wherein said selecting said next task from said tasks includes:

selecting higher priority values before selecting lower priority values when possible.

26. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 24 wherein said selecting said next task from said tasks includes:

if a first particular task cannot be executed until a second particular task has completed execution, enabling selection of said first particular task after said second particular task has completed execution.

27 (New)   The method as recited in Claim 24 wherein said tasks are BIOS (Basic Input Output System) initialization tasks.